

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A gel for application to a wound, comprising a mixture of citrus complex carbohydrates, a cellulose derivative, a polyol component and water, wherein said citrus complex carbohydrates are cross-linked to said cellulose derivative by an ionic cross-linking agent.

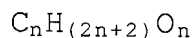
2. (Original) A gel according to claim 1, wherein said cellulose derivative is a carboxymethyl cellulose derivative.

3. (Currently Amended) A gel according to claim 1 ~~claims 1 or 2~~, wherein said cellulose derivative is sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

4. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said polyol component is a dihydroxyalkane having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

5. (Original) A gel according to claim 4, wherein said dihydroxyalkane is 1,2-dihydroxypropane.

6. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein said polyol component is a polyhydroxyalkane of the general formula



wherein n is an integer of from 3 and 6.

7. (Original) A gel according to claim 6, wherein said polyol component is polyethylene glycol.

8. (Original) A gel according to claim 7, wherein said polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight in the range of from 200 to 600.

9. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said ionic cross-linking agent is a multivalent ion.

10. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said ionic cross-linking agent is a divalent ion.

11. (Original) A gel according to claim 10, wherein said divalent ion is a magnesium ion.

12. (Original) A gel according to claim 10, wherein said divalent ion is a calcium ion.

13. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said citrus complex carbohydrates have been extracted from citrus fruit peel by leaching using an aqueous medium.

14. (Original) A gel according to claim 13, wherein said aqueous medium is hot acidified water.

15. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein said citrus complex carbohydrate is a low ester carbohydrate.

16. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said citrus complex carbohydrate comprises from 0.01 to 10% by weight of the gel.

17. (Original) A gel according to claim 16, wherein said citrus complex carbohydrate comprises about 2.8% by weight of the gel.

18. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said cellulose derivative comprises from 0.01% to 10% by weight of the gel.

19. (Original) A gel according to claim 18, wherein said cellulose derivative comprises about 3.7% by weight of the gel.

20. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said polyol component comprises from 0.1 to 30% by weight of the gel.

21. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said polyol comprises about 14.4% by weight of the gel.

22. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said ionic cross-linking agent comprises from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the gel.

23. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said ionic cross-linking agent comprises about 0.9% by weight of the gel.

24. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said gel has been sterilised.

25. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said gel further comprises an effective amount of at least one of the following components: an anti-bacterial agent; an anti-fungal agent; an anti-mycotic agent; an anaesthetic; an additional debriding agent; an anti-inflammatory agent; a growth factor; an enzyme; a pharmaceutical composition; vitamins; amino acids; aloe vera or trace metals.

26. (Currently Amended) A gel according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said gel comprises about 2.8% by weight citrus complex carbohydrate, about 3.7% by weight cellulose derivative, about 14.4% by weight polyol, about 0.9 % by weight ionic cross-linking agent and about 78.2% by weight water.

27. (Original) A process for making a gel, comprising the steps of:

mixing a citrus complex carbohydrate, a cellulose derivative and an ionic cross-linking agent in aqueous solution to effect formation of ionic bonds between said citrus complex carbohydrate and said cellulose derivatives; and

adding a polyol to the mixture to form a gel.

28. (Original) A process according to claim 27, comprising the steps of:

preparing a first aqueous solution comprising a citrus

complex carbohydrate;

preparing a second aqueous solution comprising a cellulose derivative;

preparing a third aqueous solution comprising an ionic cross-linking agent;

blending said first, second and third solutions to effect formation of ionic bonds between said citrus complex carbohydrate and said cellulose derivatives; and adding a polyol to the blended solutions to form a gel.

29. Cancelled

30. Cancelled

31. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising a gel in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ claim 1.

32. (Currently Amended) A bacteriostatic gel comprising a mixture ~~(repeat feature of claim 1)~~ of citrus complex carbohydrates, a cellulose derivative, a polyol component and water, wherein said citrus complex carbohydrates are cross-linked to said cellulose derivative by an ionic cross-linking agent.

33. (New) A gel according to claim 2, wherein said cellulose derivative is sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

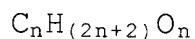
34. (New) A gel according to claim 2, wherein said polyol component is a dihydroxyalkane having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

35. (New) A gel according to claim 3, wherein said polyol component is a dihydroxyalkane having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

36. (New) A gel according to claim 34, wherein said dihydroxyalkane is 1,2-dihydroxypropane.

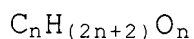
37. (New) A gel according to claim 35, wherein said dihydroxyalkane is 1,2-dihydroxypropane.

38. (New) A gel according to claim 2, wherein said polyol component is a polyhydroxyalkane of the general formula



wherein n is an integer of from 3 and 6.

39. (New) A gel according to claim 3, wherein said polyol component is a polyhydroxyalkane of the general formula



wherein n is an integer of from 3 and 6.

40. (New) A gel according to claim 38, wherein said polyol component is polyethylene glycol.

41. (New) A gel according to claim 39, wherein said polyol component is polyethylene glycol.

42. (New) A gel according to claim 40, wherein said polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight in the range of from 200 to 600.

43. (New) A gel according to claim 41, wherein said polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight in the range of from 200 to 600.